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北京青年报
BEIJING YOUTH DAILY

History on the high seas

After five years of work, singer-turned-director Chen Hong has completed one of the first studies of China's maritime history.

Toward the Sea, the eight-episode documentary, exposes more than 3,000 years of triumphs and tears, many of which had been lost before Chen and her team of scholars began sifting through the past.

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High GDP hides fear, imbalance

By Zhao Hongyi

The National Bureau of Statistics said this week that the nation's gross domestic product (GDP) reached almost 47.2 trillion yuan in 2011, a 9.2 percent increase since the previous year.

The GDP per head in Beijing was estimated at 80,394 yuan (\$12,447), about equal to the worldwide average for middle-class earners.

The average disposable income per head reached 32,903 yuan in the urban areas and 14,736 yuan in the countryside.

But these figures were widely criticized by the public, which said they do not reflect the real-life situations of most workers.

Many, especially office workers, said they were unable to "feel wealthy" and had to work extremely hard every day to maintain their expected quality of life.

Mao Li, financial manager of a Beijing shopping mall, said that her monthly salary of 15,000 yuan left her feeling far from middle class.

"My boss earns more than 500,000 yuan each year, and even he is having to save to prepare for having his first baby," she said.

"I have not seen a raise in three years despite the cost of daily necessities marching ever upward," she said.

Xiao Yao, an employee in a local IT firm with a master's degree, earns 7,500 yuan per month and 6,500 yuan after deducting for tax and insurance. He spends 1,500 yuan on his share of the rent for an apartment he shares with his colleagues. He spends another 1,200 yuan on transportation, food and Internet access. His water and electricity cost another 600 yuan.

"Fortunately, I don't have a girlfriend," he said. "The money I have left isn't even enough to buy her a brand-name handbag."

Yao said his life in Beijing is marred by feelings of insecurity.

"Even if your boss gives you a raise, it will never help you catch up with inflation," he said.

"The percentage of average disposable income compared against the average GDP in Beijing is less than 40 percent," said Wang Jianmao, an economist at China Europe International Business School (CEIBS) in Shanghai. "That is low – especially considering the city's low standard of social insurance and welfare."

The widespread ill feelings are compounded by China's complicated tax system, the professor said.

From 1997 to 2011, the annual increase of taxable income has exceeded GDP growth.

Corporate income tax, personal income tax, value-added tax, sales tax, national tax and regional tax are heavy burdens on both companies and individuals.

But the government is trying to reform the tax system, said Wang



Beijingers hope their incomes can keep up with inflation. Wei Rao/IC Photo

Tianlong, a researcher at the China Center for International Economic Exchanges.

"It plans to roll sales tax into the value-added tax this year and raise the threshold for taxation," he said.

Inflation, high property costs and low income are the top worries for Chinese women, according to the latest survey on the city's female population by the University of International Business and Economics.

"The government is on the right track in trying to raise individual disposable income," Wang said. "In the meantime, social equity, efficiency, insurance and education can temper ill feelings to promote security and happiness."

Much of the nation's GDP is funneled into infrastructure development and government expenditures.

"Compared to the rest of the country, Beijing ranks high in the value-added industrial sectors. However, its international ranking remains low," said Liu Yihui, director of China Economic Evaluation Center.

"The city's current state leaves much demand for improvement," he said.

The average GDP and labor efficiency of Beijing was only a seven-tenth of levels seen in Tokyo and an eighth of those seen in New York.

Those cities topped a list released earlier this year by the center: Beijing ranked 66th on the same list.

The capital lags behind other international cities due to its poor performance in industries such as finance, service, real estate and IT, said Zhao Hong, vice president of Beijing Academy of Social Sciences.

Beijing is encouraging the development of its cultural industry, hoping to make it a pillar of future growth.

The GDP report also spurred discussion about the imbalanced growth of neighboring provinces such as Hebei, Henan and Shanxi, as well as in the Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region.

"The imbalance could become an obstacle for the capital's further development," said Niu Li, director of the State Information Center.

That imbalance is only a microcosm of the more serious gap between China's coast and interior in both income and development.

High energy consumption was another worry, with China's energy needs climbing to 2.43 billion tons of oil in 2010 from 1.04 billion tons in 2000.

"Though Beijing uses comparatively little energy for its industrial output, such escalation is not something that can be ignored," Niu said.

Brief

Occupy men's toilets

A student hoping to become a heroine to other women around the country is launching an occupy movement of her own – in the men's restroom.

Fed up with long lines at the loo, Li Tingting made headlines this past week when she and 20 women marched into a men's toilet in Guangzhou carrying colorful placards calling for equal waiting time for both sexes.

"It's more difficult for women to answer the call of nature than for men as there are too few public toilets for women, and because women spend two to three more times on the toilet than men," Li said.

"We want officials to pay attention to this issue," she said. "It is a big problem for many women."

Li won support from her female counterparts in the capital. Last Sunday, a group of female students occupied the men's toilet near Deshengmen.

Volunteers outside the toilet held banners demanding "More convenience for women, more gender equity," and "If you love her, don't let her wait in line."

Each time, the group occupies the restroom for three minutes to allow women who are in a hurry to use the toilet. They repeat the process every 10 minutes later.

According to an online survey on Sina Weibo, 84 percent of the 2,824 netizens surveyed supported building more public toilets for women; 9 percent were opposed.

More condoms to cap HIV/AIDS cases

The country hopes to cap the number of people living with HIV/AIDS at 1.2 million by 2015, up from 780,000 at present, by promoting increased condom use, the government said Wednesday.

While praising achievements made over the past few years, including improved life expectancy for AIDS patients, the State Council said China still faced a difficult task to prevent the spread of the disease.

"The present spread of AIDS is still severe. There is widespread discrimination in society, and the virus remains a serious (problem) in some areas and among high-risk groups," the central government said in a statement on its website.

China hopes to tackle these issues through a large increase in condom use, it said.

By 2015, condoms or condom vending machines should be available at 95 percent of hotels and other, unspecified, public areas. It aims to have 90 percent of high-risk groups using condoms.

To deal with ignorance among local officials about the disease, they will be tested on their knowledge about AIDS as part of annual performance reviews, the government said.

(Agencies)

Trademark wars

Speculative registration brings Chinese, foreign firms into conflict

By Huang Daohen

Americans say Jordan while Chinese say Qiaodan. That difference can spell huge business for a basketball-crazed country.

It also explains an increasing trend in the country – speculative domain name and trademark registration.



The unfortunately-named Qiaodan Sports employs more than 40,000.

Wen Lei/IC Photo

Jordan vs Qiaodan

US tech giant Apple, which is currently battling for the right to use the iPad brand name in the mainland market, is not alone.

On February 23, basketball legend Michael Jordan filed a lawsuit against the local sports-wear maker Qiaodan Sports for its unauthorized using of his Chinese name.

Jordan has set up an entire website to state the facts of the case. He accused the company, based in Jinjiang, Fujian Province, of misleading consumers by building its business around his name and trying to use the names of his two sons.

The firm's trademark includes the name Qiaodan and the image of a leaping basketball player.

"It is deeply disappointing to see a company build a business off my Chinese name without my permission, use the number 23 and even attempt to use the names of my children. I am taking this action to preserve ownership of my name and my brand," Jordan said in a video on the website.

"I feel the need to protect my name, my identity and the Chinese consumers," he said.

Jordan said he would use any money awarded by the courts to promote basketball in China.

Qiaodan Sports has denied his accusation. The company said in a statement that it

has the exclusive right to the trademark, which it registered in 1997 in accordance with Chinese law.

As of last year, the family-owned company had more than 5,700 outlets across the nation that made an annual 2.9 billion yuan in sales. It has also been approved for equity listing in Shanghai.

Experts say there is no infringement in the case from a legal point. Under the current law, Jordan doesn't hold a registered trademark for his Chinese name, and the Fujian company successfully registered its trademark.

"The law protects parties who hold registrations and who file early for them," said Shelley Wen, a researcher at the Intellectual Property Study Center of Renmin University of China.

But Wen said Jordan still has a chance.

"Because the trademark law also says businesses cannot freely use the names of famous people, even if the people themselves have not registered them," she said.

Two previous cases involving basketball stars Yao Ming and Yi Jianlian may help Jordan.

In a similar case Yao faced last December, a court in Wuhan, Hubei Province ruled that a local sports goods firm would have to stop using Yao's name on its products. The firm was forced to pay damages of 300,000 yuan.

In Yi's case, the NBA player won in his suit against Fujian Yi Jianlian Sport: the local court held that a person's claim to his own name is a prior right.

"It may seem like a slam-dunk victory for a world-famous basketball star," Wen said. "But nothing is certain. Qiaodan Sports is a big firm with more than 40,000 employees to feed."

Speculative registration

Disputes over naming rights and trademarks have not been uncommon.

Recently, there have been high-profile disputes over the use of famous names like iPad and the latest NBA sensation Jeremy Lin.

Local media in Jiangsu Province reported that Lin, the New York Knicks' guard, has already been registered as a trademark by a local businesswoman.

The woman, a fan of Lin since he played for Harvard, spent less than 5,000 yuan last year to claim ownership of the name "Jeremy S.H.L." Forbes estimates her trademark to be worth 100 million yuan today.

Speculative registration of domain names and trademarks is a major business, Wen said. Those engaged in the practice dump their money to buy any names they foresee as valuable.

Internet domain names

such as linshuhao.com are already taken. A notice on the webpage states that the domain is currently for sale.

Apple is still locked in battle with the domestic tech firm Proviv Electronics. As of Wednesday's most recent hearing in Guangzhou there has been no decision.

But the company may face a bigger wave of speculative trademark registrations.

According to the China Trademark website, the names aPad, bPad – all the way to zPad – have been registered as trademarks.

iPad aside, the names of iPod and iPhone could also wind up on flashlights, shampoo bottles and furniture.

In recent years, as many as 40 Chinese companies and individuals have attempted to register Apple's trademarks in categories that Apple itself has not, the website said.

According to a Xinhua report, one businessman filed an application to call his flashlight an "iPhone" because, out of the 45 product categories in China, Apple has only registered the iPhone trademark in 20 categories.

"Speculators try to make a quick buck by being among the first to register a famous logo, or a reasonable facsimile, and then sell it later at a much higher price," Wen said.

But Wen said too many people are playing the game, and at the end of the day, few will be able to profit.

Behind the headline

Tough starts haunt today's shoemakers

Savvy speculators may register a trademark for the sake of a quick buck. However, for the entrepreneurs who started their fortunes in the 1980s, copying the names of famous brands or celebrities was involuntary.

Jinjiang, Fujian Province – home of Qiaodan Sports – is the capital of sports shoes.

The small county, with a population of about 3 million, is home to 20 percent of the world's sports shoes factories.

But life in the 1980s was hard. The land itself could barely support the locals and most people decided to leave. Few decided to stay and set up a business.

Making athletic shoes required little input and technology, and consequently became a popular choice. Shoemakers set up workshops and produced shoes from pre-established models for the domestic market.

The industry, due to its competitive pricing, became a success. But the first generation of businessmen did not create their own brands.

Most shoes did not have brands or names, and were instead referred to by the name of the workshop that produced them.

When foreign shoe brands entered the market in the 1990s, local shoemakers had an urge to add their names to their products, borrowing from top brands such as Nike, Puma and Adidas.

It was not until the late 1990s that the shoemakers recognized the importance of having their own brands. To compete with the global brands, they decided to establish new brands, but could not afford to lose the attention of their existing customers.

To survive, copying international brands or celebrity names became an involuntary choice.

British woman brings theater to migrants



Caroline Watson

By Han Manman

It's been seven years since Hong Kong-born British woman Caroline Watson established Hua Dan in China. The non-profit organization has helped many Chinese migrant women achieve their full spiritual and intellectual potential through participation in theater and other creative processes, but Watson believes her job is far from done.

She works to spread her unique model throughout China, with hopes that someday it'll go global so China's female migrants can show the world what they're worth.

Dong Fen never thought she could become the managing director of a successful organization.

Dong, 26, comes from a poor family in rural Yunnan Province. When she was a teen, she had to drop out of school because her family could not pay for her education.

This has always been one of Dong's father's biggest regrets, but Dong kept telling him, "Every cloud has a silver lining."

Eight years ago, Dong joined the ranks of millions who pour into Beijing as migrant workers. She first worked as a waitress, and then a beautician.

One day, she stumbled into a Hua Dan workshop, and that's when her life changed.

Sitting in a cafe and speaking in fluent English, Dong recounted how the workshop opened her mind.

"The workshop helped me see a world beyond that of a waitress and beautician, to understand my strengths and weaknesses, and to redefine my life goals," she said. "Both Watson and Hua Dan have influenced me a lot. Things I thought were impossible before are now possible."

Dong said if Watson hadn't brought Hua Dan to her life, she would not be the person she is now.

Born in Hong Kong in 1978, Watson studied theater at the University of Lancaster and dreamed of becoming a professional actress. But she soon found different uses for her theatrical skills. Her dissertation on prison theater helped her realize the potential that drama has to empower individuals and communities.

Watson came to Beijing in



Hua Dan helps female migrant workers see a world beyond that of just work.

Photos provided by Dong Fen



Workshops help participants gain confidence.

2004 with knowledge of the country's migrant community. She was disturbed to see society's treatment of the underclass, so she thought of ways to help this population.

She set up Hua Dan, a free acting workshop that was China's first nonprofit organization dedicated to empowering migrant women through acting. In 2006, Hua Dan was registered as a charity and began to solicit donations.

Hua Dan represents a perky, bold and confident image of both beauty and wisdom in Peking Opera. Watson hopes every participant in her workshop can become a Hua Dan in real life.

She and her assistants work together to create games, exercises and stories to address a wide range of issues originating

from migrant women's daily life and work.

Watson said she discovered the expectations of most migrant women in China don't go beyond getting married and having a baby.

"They think it's impossible to have a family and have their dream at the same time," she said. "We want to help them believe they can have dreams while leading a rich life."

She said many migrant women who attend her workshops initially lack confidence because they believe they're second-class citizens.

"Who says migrant women are a weak group in society?" Dong always tells the participants in the workshop. "Everyone should be equal."

To make migrant women feel equal, the workshop's staff always

uses "we" in place of "me" or "you," such as, "Can we try it?" or "How about we do this?"

Dong can still recall the time three years ago when she met a young woman surnamed Ma, a housekeeper in Beijing.

At first, the young woman always stood in the back of the room, scared to say anything during the workshops.

"But after more training, she became confident and even played the heroine in one of the dramas," Dong said.

"We're different from many NGOs that come to give things to people," Watson said. "We support the softer side of people's development. People know in their hearts what they need for their own personal development, and we support them and give them confidence to achieve that."

Hua Dan's other projects include teaching life skills to migrant women to improve their employability and a long-term rehabilitation program for child victims of the 2008 earthquake in Sichuan.

Seven years after starting Hua Dan, Watson is still passionate about her mission to use theater to inspire. But she acknowledged that one of her organization's needs is a professional business operation expert.

She said in the first three years, she simply ran workshops. It was only in later years that she tried training others and getting funding.

Watson said if Hua Dan is to develop further, she'll need to find the right partner to create a sustainable business model.

She said her dream is to spread the Hua Dan model in China before taking it around the world, particularly to emerging economies such as India or Brazil.

"We are looking to train some of the people that we've delivered workshops to, to come and actually work within the organization itself," she said.

Hua Dan has trained several migrant workers over the years, but many of them leave the city and stop doing theater-related work. But that's perfectly fine for Watson.

"Some people go back to their village and some want to follow their own dream," she said. "It's a good thing because everybody has their own life path. Our goal is to inspire people to follow their own heart."

Watson hopes this year she can take Hua Dan to perform at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, one of the most well known drama festivals in the world.

For her, it's not only a good way for the world to get to know Chinese migrant women, but also an opportunity to let migrant women see the world.

"But to go to Edinburgh is quite an expensive thing," she said. "You have to get a lot of funding to do it. We have to find it first."

Beijing to London by bike

By Han Manman

To commemorate the upcoming Olympic Games and the fun of cycling, 12 bikers have set out on a very ambitious trip. In the next five months they will cross South Korea, Japan, the US and finally Ireland before hopefully arriving in London for the Olympics Opening Ceremony on July 27.

Half of the 12 are from Poland, while the rest represent Lithuania, New Zealand and Sweden.

The 13,000-kilometer trip began Monday in Beijing, with stops at the Danish and Polish embassies. The stops were to symbolize Denmark beginning its six-month presidency of the EU council earlier this year, taking the baton from Poland, and also to show



CFP Photo

the close relations between EU nations.

BaltiCCycle is arranging

the trip, the third time they've been this Olympic Bike Expedition. In 2004,

bikers went from North Cape to Athens, and in 2008 from Athens to Beijing.

Ski competition for children's charity



Photo provided by Austrian Embassy

By Li Zhixin

The Commercial Section of the Austrian Embassy held a charity ski race last Saturday at Wanlong Ski Resort in Hebei Province, with proceeds going to the Little Flower Project Beijing, which takes care of orphans and severely disabled children.

There were 110 racers from 15 countries, making

it one of China's biggest ski races.

Bernhard Viehauser, an Austrian, recorded the best overall time, while Chinese skiers won three out of seven categories.

Also participating in the event were the European ambassador to China, Markus Ederer, Austrian ambassador Giner-Reichl, German ambassador

Michael Schaefer, Polish ambassador Tadeusz Chomicz and Luxembourgian ambassador Louis Krieger, as well as Jurgen Winter, mayor of Schladming, Austria – host of the 2013 International Ski Federation Alpine World Ski Championships.

During the evening reception, Winter said Schlading is preparing to

establish a relationship with a sister town in Chongli County, where Wanlong Ski Resort is located.

This is the third straight year that the Commercial Section of the Austrian Embassy held its race. The Austrian Charity Ski Race raised 207,000 yuan to support projects in Lhasa and Sichuan in the last two years.

SWISS launches direct flights from Beijing to Zurich

By Han Manman

Swiss International Air Lines (SWISS) recently began daily nonstop flights between Beijing and Zurich as part of plans to expand services for the burgeoning Chinese market.

Beijing is SWISS's third destination in China, joining Hong Kong and Shanghai. The airline closed its earlier service to Beijing in 2003.

SWISS will operate Airbus A340-300 aircraft from Beijing Capital International Airport Terminal 3. Flight LX 197 will depart Beijing at 6:45 am local time and arrive in Zurich at 10:40 am; the flight time will be 10 hours and 55 minutes. Flight LX 196 will leave Zurich at 12:30 am local time and land in Beijing at 5:15 the next morning, with a flight time of 9 hours and 45 minutes.

The new route is expected to boost travel and business relations between China and Switzerland, said Simon Bosshart, Asia-Pacific director at Switzerland Tourism.

"We have great confidence in the Chinese tourism market. It's estimated that the number of Chinese travelers is about to increase 20 percent this year," Bosshart said.

He added that the new direct flight route is estimated to bring about a 7 to 10 percent jump in the number of Chinese tourists in Switzerland.

The move comes at a time when Switzerland's tourism industry is reeling.

Figures from the Swiss Federal Statistical Office (SFSO) last month show that the number of overnight stays at hotels and other lodging in Switzerland slipped in 2011.

The number of overnight stays by European guests dropped 7.3 percent. Declines were registered for guests from the Netherlands, Germany, the UK, Italy, France and Belgium.

Fortunately, Chinese tourists have discovered Switzerland.

Bosshart said Switzerland has become one of most popular destinations among Chinese tourists. Last year, the country replaced Japan as Asia's largest source of tourists to Switzerland, with nearly 680,000 tourist overnight stays, increasing nearly 42 percent from the previous year.

The Swiss National Tourist Office expects demand in China for Swiss vacations will keep increasing in coming years.

"We think in 2020 that we will have two million overnight stays by Chinese guests," said Daniela Bar, a spokeswoman for the Swiss National Tourist Office.

Buddying up with migrant children

By Wu Hao

Every Saturday morning at 8:30, Helen Boyle waits outside the Guomao subway station for volunteers. Sometimes 50 people show up. Sometimes, only five or six. But regardless of the number, she'll wait, because she knows that children in the outskirts of the city are also waiting for her.

After the volunteers have gathered, Boyle leads the group to a migrant school to spend a day with children of various ages.

This past Saturday, the first session of Beijing Buddies since the lunar New Year, Boyle took volunteers to the Bowel School. The principal there, however, had forgotten to tell the students from Shiba Lidian to come.

Unperturbed, Boyle tried negotiating with her driver to take her to a different school. "The volunteers gave their time to me, I can't just tell them to go back," she said.

That's when a Bowen School van came by.

"The driver owns a migrant school, so you could perhaps consider going there?" a Bowen teacher suggested.

Boyle was happy to accept: it meant one more place where she could make a difference in children's lives.

Eye-opening experience

Three years ago, Boyle

visited a migrant school in Beijing and was appalled by its lack of resources, teaching equipment and sports facilities. That's why, in 2009, she started the Migrant Children Foundation (MCF), hoping to do something positive for these children.

According to MCF's website, "The overarching aim of the MCF is to allow its volunteers to simultaneously teach and learn – both contributing to and benefiting from the communities into which they are immersed, with an understanding of and respect for the people and culture here."

Boyle renovated a schoolhouse – Bowen – and painted it red, a sharp contrast with the stereotypical image of shabby schoolhouses.

"The school used to be inside a rented bungalow over there until a caring Chinese entrepreneur donated money for this entire new building," said a Bowen teacher surnamed Li.

On Saturday, many of the volunteers had never visited a migrant school before, so they were taken aback when children swarmed them at the front door, shouting, "Teacher, teacher, come here and sit beside me!"

"They used to be very shy; they wouldn't talk when I first came here," Boyle said. "But gradually, when we started to work, spend

time with them, try to get them involved in different activities and events, they started becoming a little bit more confident. Now they're OK, they don't mind at all."

One of Boyle's most veteran volunteers is Erin Severy, a teacher at a British school who has worked with MCF for almost a year.

Severy conducts lessons for first-graders in a lively and interesting way while still following the school's syllabus. On Saturday, she helped students learn concepts of time on a paper clock. Then she imitated animals in order for the children to learn their names. Many of the kids burst into laughter.

Students eagerly raised their hands to answer questions or show their work, hoping to get a high-five. Volunteers walked around to assist, particularly with the giving of high-fives.

Before arriving in China, David Bateman had no concept or awareness of migrant children. Eight months after working at Bowen as a teacher, he's fallen in love with his students.

"What impressed me the most was the eagerness of all the children to learn more," he said. "I have been a teacher before and sometimes kids are naughty and misbehave and don't want to learn. All the children at the migrant



Hey, give me five!

Photos by Wu Hao

school want to learn and are so friendly and happy to have people come and help them."

Bateman said MCF has certainly improved the English skills of the kids, but the school does more than just teach. Boyle has set up doctor's visits for the children to check up on their eyesight and dental health.

"MCF has certainly opened my eyes to a side of Chinese culture that I was not aware of before coming to China," Bateman said.

Making a difference

MCF teachers use the TEFL method that uses lots of games and activities involving everyone. Teachers try to get the students to talk as much as possible during lessons.

"Volunteers mainly are expats, though we have some Chinese who speak good English," Boyle said. "Some are long-term, while others come and go."

MCF has cooperated with the University of International Business and Economics in Beijing, where Boyle and her daughter learned Chinese.

Boyle, who has 25 years of teaching experience, said she loves kids and wants to

make a difference in their lives. She hopes that next year she can expand to other cities. A charity organization in Hebei Province has actually asked her to open a school there, so Boyle is considering teaching there two or three days every month.

"I'm not here to judge China or anybody, I'm here to help," she said. "This has changed my life, my way of thinking. Life is not just about yourself. It's about giving something back. You can get a lot of enjoyment by giving something back. It's not a one-way thing: you get satisfaction, encouragement and you feel something positive."

It's apparent that Boyle isn't the only person who thinks so.

"How was it? Was it worth rushing here?" she asked the volunteers after Saturday's event.

Everyone answered in the affirmative.

MCF's two programs are Beijing Buddies, which gathers volunteers on Saturdays to spend a day with migrant children, and a one-month Volunteer Program, more information about which can be found on mefchina.org.

Erin Severy pretends to be an animal during class.



Places where pets can rest in peace

By Li Zhixin

According to local police statistics, Beijing had 950,000 registered dogs as of the end of 2010; another 100,000 new dogs are registered each year.

But where there's life, there will also be death. According to the China Small Animal Protection Association (CSAPA), every year 80,000 to 90,000 pets die, of which a small fraction are cremated.

Lydia Ye, an employee at a private jet service, said her boyfriend's chihuahua recently died and they had no idea how to handle the body.

"We thought of digging a hole, but we couldn't find anywhere to do that in this concrete jungle," she said. "And there's no way we can just throw him in a garbage truck."

Luckily, a vet they visited gave them advice on arranging a cremation.

In fact, the market for pet funerals and interment is expanding.

"Pet cemeteries are appropriate and decent, and they



Beijing has a dozen places for pet funerals and interment.

CFP Photo

can offer comfort to the owner," Ye said. "Our pet died of coronavirus. If (the body) wasn't taken care of, it might infect other pets."

China's animal epidemic prevention law states that animals who die of disease or unknown causes should not be discarded haphazardly, though it offers no guidelines as to what should be done.

Lin Degui, president of China Agricultural University's Pet's Hospital, said the

body of a dead animal can contain many bacteria harmful and contagious.

"A bacterium can survive for a year in the dead animal's bone marrow, and bacteria spores can persist for years and contaminate water sources," he said.

"For example, once a woman gets infected by a parasite that dead cats usually carry, she will become susceptible to miscarriages or may become infertile."

There are a dozen pet cemetery service companies in the capital. For example, Pet's Paradise Cemetery is one where cremation costs 300 to 600 yuan, depending on the animal's size. An urn requires a deposit of 100 to 200 yuan per year.

The price of a pet coffin ranges from 500 to 1,000 yuan, depending on its size and material. For 500 yuan, pet owners can choose to adopt a tree, beside which their pet's urn will be buried.

Below are several other places that provide pet funeral and interment services:

Chongwu Tiantang

Where: Baifucun Dong, Changping District

Tel: 6077 1455, 6227 4045

Boai Pet Service Center

Where: Northeast of Xidian Village, Machikou Town, Changping District

Tel: 6075 1033, 6486 0318

IGO Pet Club

Where: Southwest of Dadenggezhuang, Songzhong Town, Tongzhou District

Tel: 8476 3451

ASK Beijing Today

Email your questions to: weiyi@ynet.com

I have a mole on my face. What bothers me is that it is painful. Is there a clinic in Beijing that specializes in skin problems? Do they speak English, and how can I get my mole checked to see if it is cancerous?

The medical system in China is very different from other countries. A skin clinic here might not help you determine if your mole is cancerous or not. Instead, visit a normal hospital with a Chinese friend if you are concerned about the language barrier. Register to see a dermatologist and tell the doctor you need tests done on your mole. The doctor will tell you how to go through the procedure. If you are concerned that they will give you expensive medicine, just tell the doctor you are on the Chinese medical insurance system and you want the medicine prescribed to be included under the medical reimbursement system.

I am living in Chaoyang District and I want to go to the Zhongguancun electronic markets after work some day. Do you know when most electronics shops close there?

The three most popular electronics malls in Zhongguancun – Dinghao, Hailong and E-world – are all open from 9 am to 7 pm.

The Chinese company I work for says they cannot offer me medical insurance. Why is that?

What your company is doing is illegal. Since last year, the Beijing government has required all Chinese companies to provide foreign employees the same medical insurance and social insurance as they provide locals. You should negotiate with your company or hire a lawyer to step in for you.

I have a car back in the US that I'd like to bring here. Do you know how I can do that?

If you're a foreigner, you need to pay a tax on the car. Take your passport, residency permit and work visa to the local customs office for the procedure. You need to register the car at a local vehicle office as well. If you are a Chinese national, the tax policy is different. Please get more detailed information from a customs office.

(By Wei Ying)

The icy suburbs



CFP Photo

Beijing has gotten very little snow this winter, but people who want to surround themselves in an icy clime can visit Wangping Village in Mentougou District. The waterfalls there remain frozen, although visi-

tors can hear the spring water flowing underneath.

How to get there: Take Subway Line 1 to Pingguoyuan station, then walk west for 100 meters and take Bus 929 to Wangping Village. The

ride will take one hour. Get off at the Wangping Village stop and walk toward the gate of a local coal mine. Once through, you'll see signs for the viewing the frozen waterfalls.

(By Wei Ying)

China's changing vie



By Zhang Dongya

Although most people know the country has a large coastline, few realize that it also claims more than 3 million square kilometers of sea.

Sea power is increasingly important for nations. The documentary *Toward the Sea*, recently aired on CCTV, was a reminder of the importance of the sea.

Making a docudrama

Toward the Sea was directed by Chen Hong, a well-known singer who became famous for her performance at CCTV's Spring Festival's gala in 1999. The film is her attempt to break out of music and into film.

"I got interested in docudrama while I was singing. When I found there were few documentaries about China's seas, I decided to make one. Marine economy and strategy are of increasing importance," Chen said.

The documentary retells China's history with the ocean from Shang Dynasty (1600-1046 BC) to present.

It focuses especially on the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644), the peak of China's seamanship, and on Sun Yat-sen's plans to boost naval power during the short Republic of China (1912-1949) era.

The team spent five years collecting materials and investigating. Starting from Dalian, a coastal city in the northeast, they went south to North China Sea, East China Sea and Nansha.

They have met some troubles during documenting. Once in the Nansha Islands, they were trapped in the ship because of a typhoon. They could not pull the ship into shore, so they stayed on the sea for one day and a night.

They also visited museums in more than 30 cities to trace historical relics.

"It was not easy to access the historical files we were looking for," Chen said. In addition, they visited some foreign naval powers in the UK, Spain and Portugal to learn about their communications with ancient China.

More than 60 domestic and international scholars, professors and experts,

including historians and geographers, assisted in the project.

Rediscovering

Their investigation uncovered many new stories.

For example, during the First Sino-Japanese War of 1894-1895, the Japanese navy captured a military map of the Yellow Sea. The map showed towns, roads, fortresses and the Shantung Peninsula. It revealed that the Japanese had broken into the Qing Court, which led to the total destruction of the dynasty.

During the process of filming, many historical details had been leaked, which showed the Japanese fleet was always stronger than its superior power.

"Many people have known the Sino-Japanese War of 1894-1895 for years, but no one paid attention to the details," said Cheng L.

History with t

"Modern history pays more attention on China's farming culture. However, that is ignoring the role the sea has played in Chinese history."

Many old Chinese books talked about the sea, such as *Mountains and Seas* by Ma Yu. Jingwei trying to fill the sea with stones is a famous legend.

Ge Jianxiong, a professor at Tsinghua University, said that the sea was the Chinese people's deep desire. "They took the sea as a land — one to be filled and one to be conquered," Ge said.

But Chen noted that China's history as a naval power was very short.

In the Shang Dynasty, the south had already ch

Toward the Sea is aiming to arouse the whole nation's awareness of the importance of sea.

W of the Sea

and area of 9.6 million square kilometers, few real-
kilometers of ocean.

An eight-episode documentary named *Toward the*
e vital importance of China's sea claims.

and naval specialists,

g the ocean
n helped to unearth

g the Sino-Japanese
he Qing army cap-
o aboard a Japanese
wed all the villages,
ses and barracks in
It also revealed that
ken the code used by
n was responsible for
of the Beiyang Navy.
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ve studied the first
during the last 100
id attention to these
eping, a researcher.

he sea
outs more emphasis
lture and land. How-
the very important
d," Chen said.

he tales told stories
one in *The Classic of*
about a bird named
it with stones and

professor at Fudan
the tale showed the
p attachment to the
sea as an 'obstacle'
d turned into land,"

at China has a his-
asty, people in the
arted ocean current

and seasonal winds. The ship building
industry was first developed in state of
Wu during the Three Kingdoms (220-280)
era, with some five-floor battleships capa-
ble of carrying 3,000 people.

By the Song Dynasty (960-1279), the
country had established trade routes to
the eastern coast of Africa. In Ming, Zheng
He made his world-famous voyage.

After a hundred years of weakness,
China is looking again to strengthen its
power in the seas.

Currently, China's petroleum supply
is highly dependent on the Straits of
Malacca, the only sea lane into the coun-
try and one that is potentially hazardous.

Maritime culture

"Our leaders and governors understand
the importance of sea power, but most of
the population still lacks a sense that the
ocean is important," Chen said.

"My documentary is intended to help
everyone learn this part of the nation's
history, how it applies to the present and
how it will matter in the future."

Chen is considering a proposal to pre-
pare a section on the country's maritime
history for elementary school books.

"It is not a task for one generation and
it will take many generations to become
proficient again at sea culture and strat-
egy," Chen said.

The documentary ends with 2011, but
Chen and her team plan to continue updat-
ing it as important events occur in the
modern era.

Chen's next documentary will focus on
the Chinese navy. She has not completely
abandoned music, and said she would sing
whenever she finds a good song. A docu-
mentary called *Xianfeng Bense* includes
her song.



Safeguarding waters



The coast guard ready to deploy



Jiaolong



Photos by Li Tang



The architectural wonders of bird nests

By Charles Zhu

Peter Goodfellow, a retired teacher of English language and literature and a lifelong bird watcher, has produced a fascinating study of nest design and construction.

His book, *Avian Architecture: How Birds Design, Engineer and Build*, explores many nest types. The book follows a Darwinian line of evolution and is richly illustrated with drawings, photographs and a number of architectural blueprints for nests.

"I have never actually gotten into the work of the scientist, who might watch for a whole day or week as a bird makes a nest," he said. "I've never had that deep science bent that's made me sit down to do that sort of thing."

Nevertheless, his observations of the architectural form and function, as well as the birds' choice of construction materials, is priceless.

His blueprints for nests reveal the complex details of nest construction and materials in ways that you would never understand without watching the birds work at close range. The book makes an excellent selection of case studies which offer more details about the construction process.

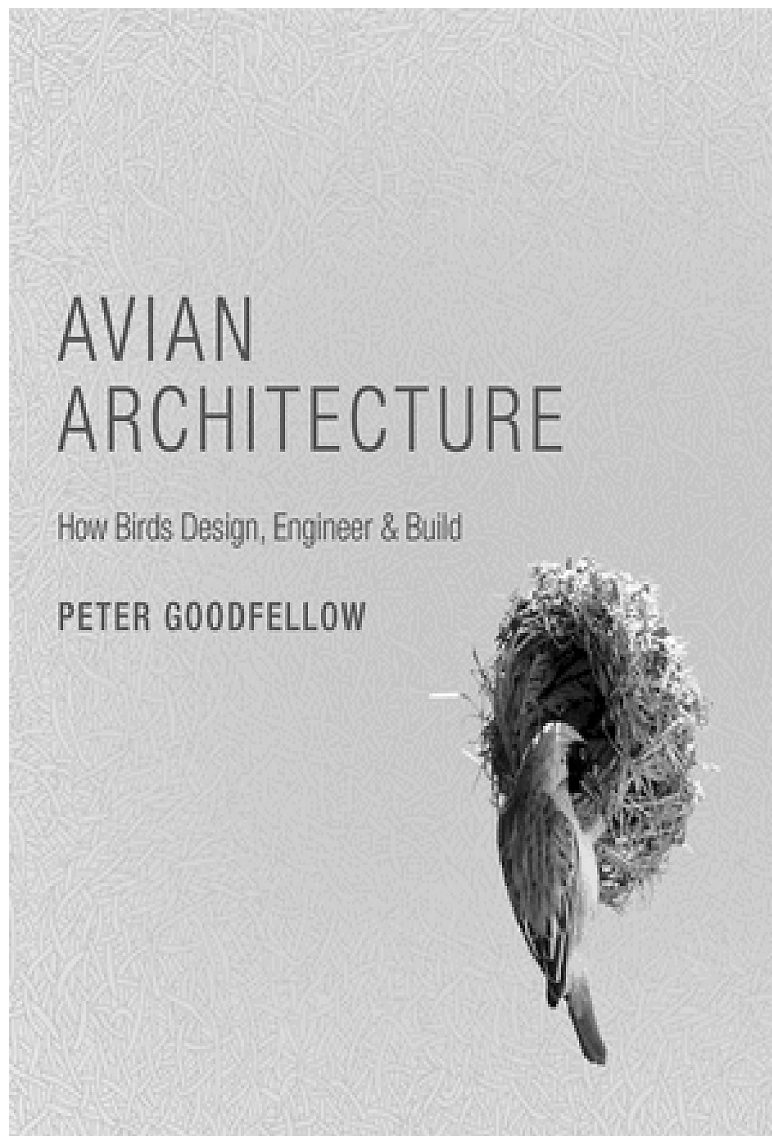
Birds weave and wind, dig and daub, scrape and sculpt some of the most amazing homes. The author classifies nests into general types: scraped, bored, platform, cupped and woven nests.

The book's illustrations are a rich combination of fine photographs and graphics that show structural models and design elements no photo can reproduce. From the simple but elegant scraped nests to the large and complex communal platform nests of the largest birds, this beautiful book reveals the knowledge of avian builders.

Divided into 12 chapters based on types of nest, the book describes designs as simple and small as a hazelnut and those complex and enormous enough to weigh several tons. They can last a few weeks or a century, and can be isolated or one among a million similar nests.

The book talks much about mound incubators that use the heat of composting material, platform nesters and colonial nesters. It mentions a hornbill sealed inside a nest hole, a colony of densely packed albatrosses and the many colorful walkways made by bowerbirds.

As the author shows, the dome-shaped nest is one of the most beautiful and skillful constructions in the animal kingdom. The average nest contains a couple of hundred springs of moss and several thousand lichen flakes, woven together with



Avian Architecture: How Birds Design, Engineer and Build
By Peter Goodfellow, 160pp, Princeton University Press, \$27.95

purloined spider silk and lined with feathers. "It's an amazing creation," he said in an interview speaking of the long-tailed tit's nest in his garden in Plymouth, England.

"What's doubly astonishing is that they use it just once."

There are many shining examples of avian engineers. The song thrush, for instance, builds its cup nest on a foundation of sturdy twigs, then adds moss and dried grass to form a crude cup, which is lined with wood pulp and mud and decorated on the outside with moss and leaves for camouflage. The Baltimore oriole weaves its nest of plant fibers, vine strips and hair from two or more attachment points on a tree branch. The long-tailed tit uses spider silk in a nylon fastener-like fashion, detaching it from the lichen and moss and then reattaching to expand the nest if it has a larger brood.

Goodfellow also tells of avian love stories. The bowerbirds build

structures of grass or sticks on the ground, often aligned east to west, and decorate them with leaves, stones or other objects. However, these bowers are not nests at all. They are signs of courtship, designed to show females that the builder would make a proper mate. And once the female makes her choice and mates with the male of her liking, she goes off and makes a proper cup nest to raise the young.

It is essential for birds to have a nest in which to brood. "It's been created to be the family home," the author says. "That's true whether it's just a scrape in the sand or the beautiful little feathery, mossy cup of the hummingbird." The piping plover nest, a simple scrape in the sand, can be the nursery of many generations.

The author said that nests are not for love, only for child rearing. Mating always occurs elsewhere, he says.

Trends Lounge book listing

Located at The Place, Trends Lounge is a bookstore and cafe with many books about international art, design and architecture.



The Sense of Order: A Study in the Psychology of Decorative Art
By E.H. Gombrich, 412pp, Phaidon Press, \$29.95

This book provides a comprehensive survey of the history and theory of decorative art. The human impulse to seek order and rhythm in space and time can be seen in children's plays, poetry, dance, music and architecture. Its prevalence in our every activity calls for an explanation in terms of our biological heritage.



Nan Goldin
By Guido Costa, 128pp, Phaidon, £ 7.95

Nan Goldin is one of today's leading photographers. Her work has been exhibited in museums and galleries worldwide, including California, the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, Amsterdam, Centre Pompidou, Paris and the Museu Reina Sofia. Through this sequence of 55 images, Nan Goldin presents an overview of the photographer's career and illustrates the development of Goldin's intimate and raw style.



Dada & Surrealism
By Matthew Gale, 448pp, Phaidon Press, \$24.95

This stimulating introductory survey traces the origin and development of two revolutionary 20th-century art movements, exploring the full range of artistic production, including film, photography, collage, painting, graphics and object making. Gale places art within a context of ideas ranging from the disillusionment and questioning of accepted values after World War I to the use of the creative force of the unconscious to undermine convention.

(By Zhang Dongya)

“The loneliness always reminded me that I was doing something very difficult. But I think it was worth it.”

Gone with the woods



Yu Guangyi

As a native of Heilongjiang Province, director Yu Guangyi knows the woods. He grew up on the tales of forest loggers.

But in 2005, a classmate told Yu that the government was preparing to pass a ban on logging.

“It meant the loggers in my hometown would soon find themselves unemployed,” Yu said. “Although I knew nothing about movie production, I decided I would record the last images of their way of life.”

It was easier said than done.

“When I look back on *Timber Gang*, I can’t say I’m satisfied with how it turned out,” Yu said.

Although it was Yu’s rookie attempt at directing, he still made a great achievement. The film has been acclaimed for showing the loggers’ tough life, their dangerous working conditions and the special bonds they share with their horses.

Viewers at the film’s February 25 screening at Ullens Center for Contemporary Art said the scene where one horse waited for its master who fell behind was especially heartwarming, as was the logger who was crying over his dead animal.

“You can tell the loggers and their horses share an inseparable bond,” Yu said. “Neither could survive alone under such brutal circumstance, let alone work there.”

When asked about why none of the loggers and horses were mentioned by name in the film, Yu said he thought that was unnecessary.

“The loggers see themselves as gods who watch over the people, horses and trees in Black Bear Valley,” he said. “For at least a hundred years, they have maintained their traditional method of work, which depends on cooperating as one. There is no need to tear them apart by emphasizing their names.”

Since the ban on logging took effect in 2005, life in the Black Bear Valley has changed dramatically. The loggers became unemployed and the trees were wiped out. The area the loggers worked and protected has been leveled and turned into a popular tourist resort.

Yu has never lost contact with the loggers.

Since he finished editing *Timber Gang*, he has filmed another two movies about the loggers’ unemployment and the fate of their former woods.

By Wu Tong

They huddle in a mountain hut by night, drinking and warming themselves around a kerosene lamp. They march out before dawn, treading through knee-deep snow and praying to find a worthy tree.

Isolated from the outside world, loggers have inherited an ancient tradition that is free of modern equipment. They use only horses to transport their daily haul.

Timber Gang, an indie film made by Yu Guangyi in 2004, records the life of this forgotten class of workers in the nation’s northeastern forests.



The loggers of the northeast inherited an ancient tradition that is free of modern equipment.
Photos provided by Yu Guangyi



The first, *Survival Song*, follows a family formed by an unemployed hunter, his wife, a vagrant and two dogs, all of whom continue to live in the woods in spite of the ban.

Bachelor Mountain, the second film, follows an unemployed logger on his quest to find a girlfriend.

The series has won Yu dozens of awards at international festivals. A fourth film about the life of the loggers will be released next year.

“I did show my work to the loggers one time. Some of them liked it, but most of them prefer listening to crosstalk (a form of comedy),” Yu said. “Unfortunately, some of the loggers have passed away for various reasons since I shot the film. They never got the chance to see it.”

His filming efforts have been fraught with many difficulties, such as having to build a house next door to the family he was following for *Survival Song*.

“There weren’t any people within a dozen kilometers,” Yu said. “The loneliness always reminded me that I was doing something very difficult. But I think it was worth it.”

Yu said he hopes to make more films about the loggers and other people struggling in the lower classes of society. Although China’s indie film market remains weak, he said he is confident that films depicting the struggle of marginalized people will one day be appreciated.

“I don’t expect that films like mine will be box-office hits,” Yu said. “However, I believe their message will matter to our descendants.”

Vintage shops and secondhand markets



1980s-style Chinese furniture



Secondhand sofa at Wuwang Zahuao inside 798 Art Zone, starting from 1,000 yuan



Dolls and spoons at Paris-Peking



Young people host a vintage bazaar near Shuangjing



The Paris-Peking store at Gulou East Street
Photos by Liu Tiantian/
Qiao Xiaodao/CFP

Secondhand markets

Haiwangcun Jiuhuo Shichang

Where: 115 Liulichang Dong Jie, Xuanwu District
Open: 9 am – 5 pm
Tel: 6304 7791

Xisanqi Jiuhuo Shichang

Where: 1, Guigu Di, Xicaochang, Haidian Lu, Haidian District
Open: 10 am – 6 pm
Tel: 8285 1421

Dongyusheng Recycled Material Market

Where: 500 meters east of Honglingjin Qiao, Dong Sihuan Lu, Chaoyang District
Open: 7 am – 5 pm
Tel: 86707468

By Annie Wei

Although dozens of second-hand markets sell all assortments of products, few offer pleasant shopping environments, and ever fewer sell vintage items. Luckily, there's one such place that's convenient to access on Gulou East Street.

Beijing Today recommends these two new stores. The first is Paris-Peking, run by Liu Tiantian, who spent 10 years studying in France. The store sells items Liu has collected, including necklaces, earrings and used handbags. Prices range from a dozen yuan to a few hundred. The store is also decorated like a French countryside cottage.

Apart from running this store, Liu also works as a freelance designer.

The other shop is Shop Rhys, decorated in a British retro style.

A most interesting aspect is the different-shaped letters that spell out amusing sentences on the front door, such as "Life has no assumption" and "My GF is a bitch and you know it."

Inside, one can find imported vintage apparel and rugs.

Used furniture is also

trendy, as evidenced by the dozens of bazaars that are popular on weekends. Qiao Xiaodao, a migrant worker-turned-singer-turned-designer, said he will soon open another store that sells used furniture for between 1,000 and 3,000 yuan.

Qiao has already had a store that sells vintage items, original products and used furniture in 798. He is a minor celebrity among the country's younger generation. In his 30s, he has successfully turned himself from a migrant worker into a musician and founder of Weiboziyan, a non-profit organization to help people achieve their dreams.

Paris-Peking

Where: 85 Baochao Hutong, Gulou Dong Dajie, Dongcheng District
Open: 2-8:30 pm



Antique earrings, starting from 30 yuan
CFP Photo

Shop Rhys

Where: 145 Gulou Dong Dajie, Dongcheng District
Wuwang Zahuao
Where: Floor 3, E03, Qixing Dong Jie, 798 Art District, 4 Jiuxianqiao, Chaoyang District
Open: 11 am – 8 pm
Tel: 5978 9627

Dix Noisettes' one-table eating establishment

By Annie Wei

Dix Noisettes, a French restaurant hidden in a hutong, is redefining the meaning of cozy with its single table and homey style.

Opened two months ago, the restaurant already has a long list of reservations because of its incredibly limited seating.

"We only serve one table because we want to guarantee the service quality," said Wang Yu-Chieh, the chef, manager, server and sommelier.

Wang, a native of southern Taiwan, learned to cook at the Institute Paul Bocuse in Lyon, France and at the Le Cordon Bleu Culinary Arts Institute in Paris.

His restaurant's website says reservations for a minimum of four people begin at 298 yuan per person. During the restaurant's soft opening, it cost only 178 yuan per person, and diners could bring their own wines.

The menu often changes. Wang said he cooks according to what's freshest at the market that day.

A meal includes bread, an appetizer, soup and one main course. When we went, the appetizer was salmon tartar, made of fresh salmon, fish roe and slightly frozen sliced onions with sugar-soaked orange peels. The tartness and sweetness of the orange peels and the icy, slightly spicy onion was a soothing complement to the salmon, giving the dish an interesting kick.

The soup was a traditional creamed pumpkin and scallion soup from southern France. Wang said because locals might not be used to the amount of cream used in France, he's

adapted the soup so that there's more sweet potatoes and less cream. The pairing of tender and sweet scallions was a nice touch.

The main dish was a traditional French chicken roll, wrapped in minced pork, with five kinds of nuts. Wang uses only black peppers and salt to bring out a dish's taste. The chicken was tender and full of flavor, and the soup was prepared after soaking



Salmon tartar

for 13 hours in chicken broth and two kinds of tomatoes.

The dessert was chocolate mousse, strawberries and sugar-soaked orange peels. Wang said he only uses Valrhona chocolate, which is stronger and has more cocoa.

Dix Noisettes has been praised for its attentive service and considerations. It has three electric heaters to make the dining room warm and cozy.

Dix Noisettes

Where: Near Xisi Bei Dajie, Xicheng District (diners will be emailed a detailed address after their reservation is confirmed)

Tel: 6612 5980 (reservations accepted between 10 am and 8 pm)

Website: dixnoisettes.com



Pumpkin and scallion soup



French chicken roll with pork

Photos by Zhou Baoling

Traditional Suzhou noodles at Traders Hotel

By Annie Wei

Earlier this year, Traders Hotel launched a gourmet campaign to bring regional cuisines to the capital's diners.

From February 20 until today, Shi Xinyu, a chef from Suzhou, Jiangsu Province has worked at the cafeteria of Traders Hotel preparing traditional Suzhou noodles called aozaozou.

The noodle can be traced back to the Qianlong period (1735-1815). According to a folk story, the Qianlong emperor dressed up as a normal person and visited the provinces of Zhejiang and Jiangsu. While walking through a village, he spotted an old woman cooking noodles on a dirty oven. Qianlong was so hungry that he asked for some food, calling it "dirty oven," which sounds like aozou.

He thought it was delicious, of course.

The noodles (42 yuan) are delicately prepared. The soup is stewed for six hours with snails, eels, red dates, soy sauce, Chinese herbs,



Meat and vegetables for the noodles

pork and chicken broth. Shi uses Suzhou flour because he couldn't find the right flour to make the noodles in the capital. The final result is fine and chewy.

After the soup and noodles are ready, they are topped with jiaotou, a local term for meat and vegetables. Aozaozou goes well with three kinds of jiaotou: pork, duck and fried fish. In the Sanjiang cafeteria, diners can try three kinds all at once.

Sanjiang Cafeteria

Where: Traders Hotel, 1 Jianguomen Wai Dajie, Chaoyang District

Open: 7 am - 9 pm

Tel: 6505 2277 ext. 35



Aozaozou, a traditional type of Suzhou noodle
Photo provided by Traders Hotel

Dining

Bacardi cocktails

Ernest Hemingway always asked for Bacardi when ordering his Daiquiris of white rum, lime, grapefruit juice and maraschino liquor. The Regent Beijing is serving some of the most famous Bacardi cocktails during the months of March and April to get you in the mood for spring.

Where: Regent Beijing, 99 Jinbao Jie, Dongcheng District

Cost: 60 yuan per glass (15 percent gratuity)

Tel: 8522 1789



Strawberry-themed afternoon tea

Celebrate spring's approach with strawberries at Lobby Lounge. Join us for delicious strawberry cheesecake, fresh strawberry tarts and pies and homemade strawberry jam.

Where: Lobby Lounge, Grand Millennium Beijing, 23 Dongsanhuan Bei Lu, Chaoyang District

When: March 1-31, 2:30-5:30 pm

Cost: 48 yuan

Tel: 8587 6888



Asia-Euro brasserie buffet lunch

Come and enjoy our relaxed atmosphere, ever-smiling staff and delicious culinary delights. The menu offers an extensive selection of Asian favorites and European classics. Need a better recommendation? Let the dishes do the talking.

Where: Regent Beijing, 99 Jinbao Jie, Dongcheng District

Cost: 238 yuan per person (15 percent gratuity)

Tel: 8522 1789



Airline

Vietnam Airlines and Jetstar partnership to strengthen Jetstar Pacific

Vietnam Airlines (VNA) and Australia's Qantas Group, the parent of Jetstar, have announced a new partnership arrangement for Vietnam-based low fares carrier Jetstar Pacific Airlines (JPA).

The state-owned capital in Jetstar Pacific Airlines (JPA), previously managed by Vietnam State Capital Investment Corporation (SCIC), has been transferred to Vietnam Airlines according to the Prime Minister's Decision, which came into effect on January 16.

The official signing was organized today in Hanoi in the presence of representative leaders of the Vietnamese Ministry of Finance, SCIC, Jetstar Group and Vietnam Airlines.

Vietnam Airlines inherits all the rights and obligations as a state shareholder in JPA to become the largest shareholder with a 69.93 percent stake. Australia's Qantas Group is the second largest shareholder with a 27 percent stake.

Vietnam Airlines is selling 3 percent of its stake in Jetstar Pacific to the Qantas Group in line with a long-term commitment

and following the existing agreement signed between SCIC and Qantas Airways.

British Airways prepares to welcome the world to London

British Airways is preparing for one of the busiest summers London has had in recent years.

This year, the British Airways cabin crew will serve three Olympic swimming pools worth of tea. The scale of the challenge really comes to light when one considers that it will carry enough customers to fill the Bird's Nest more than 343 times.

"This summer will be the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games, the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, the London 2012 festival, Wimbledon, Taste of London and Ascot and a host of other sporting and cultural events," said Kevin McQuillan, British Airways' regional general manager, East Asia.

"As a destination, London looks more attractive than ever, and with the addition of great shopping and food, British Airways believes summer 2012 is the time to visit."

Job

Assistant to gallery manager

G-Dot Art Space is looking for someone who is proficient in Chinese and English to fill the position of assistant to the gallery manager. It is offering a starting salary of 5,000 yuan that is negotiable, depending on qualifications. Work hours are Tuesday to Saturday from 10 am to 6 pm.

G-Dot Art Space is an international contemporary gallery located in the new art district of Songzhuang in Tongzhou. Room and board are included if necessary. Passion for art is a must.

If interested, please send your resume to jade.gdot@gmail.com

Part-time English, math teachers needed at a local university

We are looking for people to teach English language and math to elementary school students. The program will begin in April and provides on-job training.

Teaching materials are elementary English books from the US. Teachers should be competent in English literature. The program involves afternoon and evening work, starting at 3 and 4 pm, and will likely require weekend work.

There will be 10 work hours per week, with pay of 120 to 200 yuan per hour depending on qualifications and experience.

Tel: Shelley, 15010513906

Rent

Clean apartment in the Shuangjing area

This apartment is located in Shuangjing's Pingod community. It is near Shuangjing Station on Line 10 of the subway, one stop from Guomao.

It comes fully furnished with TV, air conditioning, a refrigerator and a washing machine. The compound has 14-hour security. Restaurants, supermarket, a shopping mall, fitness clubs, kindergarten, schools and a hospital are located nearby.

Rent: 6,000 yuan per month

Tel: 15801168406

Email: meero442@126.com

3-bed apartment in Guangcai Int'l Garden

Guangcai International is a high-quality compound in Sanlitun by the west gate of Worker's Stadium.

This 3-bedroom flat is 217 square meters and has two modern bathrooms and a well-equipped kitchen. There is a spacious living and dining area. The area has 24-hour security and underground parking. Front desk service is available in every building.

Rent: 22,000 yuan per month, including management and heating charges.

Tel: 18211103721

Email: liuyang8062@gmail.com

Modern studio in Sanlitun

This studio is opposite the west gate of Workers Stadium, close to Sanlitun.

The 50-square-meter interior comes fully furnished and includes a good washing machine with hot water, a refrigerator and a TV. It has wooden floors and a modern bathroom.

The asking price is 5,300 yuan per month, including management fees and heating.

Tel: 13522676502 Gloria

(By Jackie Zhang)





Fri, Mar. 2

Movie
The Piano

The Piano is a 1993 drama about a mute pianist and her daughter, set during the mid-19th century in a rainy, muddy frontier on the west coast of New Zealand. The film was written and directed by Jane Campion, and stars Holly Hunter, Harvey Keitel, Sam Neill

and Anna Paquin. It received three Oscars: Best Actress for Hunter, Best Supporting Actress for Paquin and Best Original Screenplay.

Where: FET Café, 21 Chengfu Lu, Haidian District

When: 7:30-10 pm

Admission: Free

Tel: 6239 6763

Sat, Mar. 3

Music festival
Sally Can't Dance

This marks the fourth year in this festival of Chinese experimental music. Things got started in 2008 when free jazz saxman Li Tieqiao threw a two-day jamboree at Wudaokou's D-22 (RIP), barreled through 2009 and hit a peak in 2010 when Subjam label boss Yan Jun helmed the festival and coordinated a massive international, inter-generational jam with visiting UK improv master Fred Frith. Now Zhu Wenbo and Josh Feola are bringing Sally back. This year's lineup draws on young and old and reaches well beyond the Beijing-Shanghai bipole, bringing musicians from every corner of the mainland.

Expect two all-day blowouts of free jazz, harsh noise, minimal electronics, refracted feedback, abused brass, mangled strings, meditative buzzes and other sonic experiences of mysterious or dubious origin.

Where: Behind Qiulixiang, 2 Di'anmen Xi Dajie, Xicheng District

When: March 4, 3-11:30 pm (opening)

Admission: 80 yuan per day (60 yuan for students); 2-day pass: 150 yuan (100 yuan for students)

Exhibition

2012 New Year Fine Art Print Festival

In partnership with leading fashion brand Shin Kong Place, this year's festival, opened at Shin Kong Place on February 18, pays tribute to the year of the dragon by presenting new works by outstanding original printmaking artists, including Zheng Shuang, Karen Kunc, Chen Qi, Yu Chenyou, Ling Junwu, Ralph Kiggell, Wang Chao, Huang Kai and Ma Yong. As an ancient totem, the dragon symbolizes the passions fueled by vitality and the creative forces unleashed by inspiration.

A printmaking workshop and art lecture will be open to the public.

Where: Sing Kong Place, 5th floor, Event Hall, 87 Jianguo Lu, Chaoyang District

When: Until March 18, 9 am - 6 pm

Admission: Free



陈抱潼摄影作品展

我的最后的北京

Mon, Mar. 5

Exhibition
My Last Beijing

A personal exhibition by local photographer Chen Baotong, *My Last Beijing* shows hutong and old buildings

being demolished. Chen's creations present the last images of a fading era. The photographer considers his work a memorial of this ancient city.

Where: 2nd floor, New World Department Store, 7 Dong Damochang Dajie, Chongwen District

When: Until March 31, 10 am - 9 pm

Admission: Free

Tel: 6708 7470



Sun, Mar. 4

Drama
The Balcony

Created and directed by Chen Peisi, a famous actor in China, this classic comedy reflects social realities. The balcony at Yating Park, a modern residential area, is the focus of this drama, on which workers ask for payment and couples fight with one another.

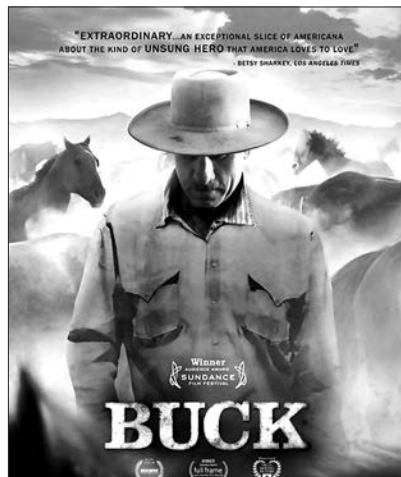
Where: The Theater Hall of the National Center for the Performing Arts, Xicheng District

When: 7:30-10:30 pm

Admission: 180-580 yuan

Tel: 6655 0000

Tue, Mar. 6



Movie
Buck

"Your horse is a mirror to your soul, and sometimes you may not like what you see. Sometimes, you will." So says Buck Brannaman, a cowboy who travels the country for nine grueling months a year to help horses with people problems. *Buck* is a richly textured and visually stunning film, following Brannaman from his abusive childhood to his phenomenally successful approach to horses.

The animal-human relationship becomes a metaphor for facing daily challenges in life. A truly American story about an unsung hero, *Buck* is about an ordinary man who has made an extraordinary life despite tremendous odds.

Where: No. 3 Club, 43 Bei Sanhuan Lu, Haidian District

When: 7:30-10 pm

Admission: 15 yuan

Tel: 8211 5288

Wed, Mar. 7

Nightlife
World Music

An experimental folk musician, Huan Du searches for musical elements and plays with structure and tone to create diverse results. Together with Li Daiguo, another musical talent, Huan and his friends will share their interpretation of real music.

Where: Gulou 121 Bar, 121 Jiu Gulou Dajie, Xicheng District

When: 9:30-11:30 pm

Admission: 60 yuan

Tel: 8404 3430

Thu, Mar. 8

Concert
The Drops' China tour in Beijing

Panzani and Casagrande started working on *The Drops* at the end of 2008 in Paris. They have been musical partners for a long time and were willing to put their energies toward creating a new band. Both of them are influenced by jazz, rock and pop. They have two albums, *Ted Poor* and *Falling from the Sky*. This is their first time touring China.

Where: 7 Dongmianhua Hutong, Jiaodaokou Nan Dajie, Dongcheng District

When: 9-11:30 pm

Admission: 60 yuan, 50 yuan pre-sale

Tel: 6401 5269

(By Zhang Yuting)

Feast your eyes on southern China's rapeseed flowers

By Wu Hao

Hints of spring are spreading across southern China, as rapeseed flowers, known for their effervescent yellow coloring, bloom.

People from across the country swarm into well-known Wuyuan County, Jiangxi Province to experience spring in the rapeseed fields.

But Wuyuan isn't the only place where visitors can enjoy the sight of thousands of flowers in bloom. Other destinations – many of them less crowded – offer a similar visual treat.



Visitors can view seas of flowers in Xinghua, Jiangsu Province.

CFP Photos

Blossoms in ancient village, Hongcun

Not far from Wuyuan is Hong Village, also known for its yellow rapeseed flowers, white walls, black tiles, green hills and jade waters, which blend together like a landscape painting.

Located in Yi County near the southwest slope of the Yellow Mountains, Hong was listed as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 2000 for being a representative village of southern Anhui Province. It is known for looking like a village from a Chinese painting" and was a shooting location for *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon*.

Built during the Northern Song Dynasty (960-1127), Hong Village has more than 140 houses, said to be among the best of their kind in China, dating back to the Ming and Qing dynasties.

The village is arranged in the shape of an ox, with Leigang Hill serving as the head, two trees on the hill as horns, and houses along a river as the body. The Jiyin River, which runs through the village, represents the intestines, South Lake is the stomach and four bridges represent its feet.

In the early morning, tourists swarm the village to catch the sunrise. They'll also see a beautiful sheet of lime green stretching into the distance and perhaps catch glimpses of women washing clothes by the river or art students painting along the stream.



Hong Village owns classic residence.



Luoping features a vast area of rapeseed flowers.

Hongcun

Blossoming period: mid-March – mid-April

Getting there: Take an airplane or train to Huangshan City, then take a taxi or private car to Hong Cun (Village) (about 150 yuan). Or you can take a bus at Huangshan bus station to Yi County (buses leave every 30 minutes, 10.5 yuan per person), then take a bus to Hong Village (leaves every 20 minutes, 2 yuan per person; last bus at 5:30 pm).

Admission: 140 per person, valid for three days; you can buy your ticket at most hotels for a discount

Tel: 0559-555 6666 / 3333

Accommodations:

Ju Shan Tang: 0599-554 1218

Song He Tang: 0559-554 1255

Other spots of interest: Yellow Mountains, Xidi Village, Shitan Village, Wuyuan County.

Luoping, flower sea stretching to the sky

Unlike Hong Village, it's said that the spectacular rapeseed fields in Luoping County, Yunnan Province are more like an oil painting.

Located about 240 kilometers east of Kunming, Luoping turns into a sea of gold in the spring as rapeseed flowers –

nearly 7 million square meters of them – bloom.

Luoping has held a rapeseed flower festival since 1999. This year, the festival, which began on January 13, will run until March 30, and will include many cultural activities.

The best place to view the flowers and take pictures is Jinjiling, where rolling hills twist into various shapes. Because of the sheer number of photographs taken there, Jinjiling was named the most beautiful place for karst scenery by *Chinese National Geography*. The sunsets and sunrises are particularly stunning.

About 12 kilometers northeast of there on National Highway 324 is Luping County, where there's a "rapeseed flowers sightseeing platform (3 yuan). But really, anywhere along the street will offer a great sight.

Niujie and Shiwan Dashan are also excellent spots for sightseeing, with fewer people.

Luoping

Bloom period: mid-January – late-March

Getting there: Take an airplane or train to Kunming, then to Luoping, or take a taxi or private car (200-300 yuan per day).

Admission: Free
Tel: 0874-821 2524 / 9506
Accommodations: There are many hotels and family inns in the county.

Note: Be sure to bring an umbrella and sunscreen

to protect yourself from the surprisingly fierce sunshine.

Xinghua, boating through flower islands

The fourth annual rapeseed flower tourism festival will be held from April 2 to May 3 in Xinghua, Jiangsu Province.

Xinghua is noted for its history of more than 2,000 years. It is also known for being the hometown of Zheng Banqiao, a famous artist during the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911).

Its rapeseed flowers are planted on raised fields with irrigation canals. Those thousands of small islands turn into rolling flowerbeds once blooming season starts, stretching as far as the eyes can see.

Taking a wooden boat down the winding canals and around the flower islands is a unique experience.

The best sightseeing spot is the three-floor sightseeing tower in the middle of Qian-dao, which offers an unobstructed and expansive view.

Xinghua

Bloom period: early-April – early-May

Getting there: Take an airplane or train to Nanjing, and then take a bus to Xinghua City (69 yuan; it's a three-hour ride).

Admission: 90 yuan (60 yuan if booked online)

Tel: 0523-8360 1010

Accommodations: Hotels and family inns are widely available at various prices